II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) Machine for feeding containers to be processed by a processing unit, which comprises an accumulation conveyor (3), located upstream of the processing unit and driven by a first motor means (8), and a feeder conveyor (4), which feeds containers to the accumulation conveyor (3) and is driven by a second motor means (13), wherein the machine further comprises: a first sensor (5) adjacent the feeder conveyor (4), for detecting, ~~the~~ a container (1); and a control unit, which controls the first motor means (8) such that ~~the~~ a desired gap (11) is created between two adjacent containers (1) on the accumulation conveyor (3), and that the speed of the accumulation conveyor (3) and of the feeder conveyor (4) are ~~sychronized~~ equal during at least a partial ~~handling~~ handing over of the container (1) from the feeder conveyor (4) to the accumulation conveyor (3).

2. (previously presented)Machine according to claim 1, wherein the machine further comprises a second sensor (10), upstream of the first sensor, which detects the distance (12) between two containers on the feeder conveyor (4).

3. (currently amended) Machine according to claim 2, wherein the second sensor (10) is connected to the control unit, which reduces the speed of the feeder conveyor (4), if the distance (12) ~~of~~ between two containers on the feeder conveyor (4) is significantly smaller than ~~the~~ a minimum gap needed for the handover of a container 1, as the container 1 approaches ~~before container 1 is coming to~~ the handover position ~~as well~~.

4. (previously presented) Machine according to claim 1, wherein the motor means (8, 13) are servo motors.

5. (previously presented) Machine according to claim 1, wherein the feeder conveyor (4) operates at continuous or random speed.

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) Machine according to claim 6, wherein the transfer is carried out while the accumulation conveyor (3) stands still.

8. (currently amended) A machine according to claim 1, wherein the first sensor (5) is in the end-zone (6) of the feeder conveyor (4), ~~detecting,~~ to detect the front edge (7), of the container (1).

9. (currently amended) A machine according to claim 8, further comprising a detection means (9) to detect the speed of motion of the feeder conveyor (4), ~~and that~~ wherein the first sensor (5) and ~~preferably~~ the detection means (9) are connected to the control unit, which controls the first motor means (8).